

Message Text

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62

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 H-03 VO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /136 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0672

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS LONDON 06535

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, SF, PO

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT OF SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE STAFF
CHIEF'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 099956

1. THE DAILY TELEGRAPH FOR MAY 24, HAD ARTICLE BY
STEPHEN BARBER DATELINED WASHINGTON AND ENTITLED "US
WORRIED BY SOVIET THREAT TO CAPE SEA ROUTE" WHICH
INCLUDES DETAIL AND COMMENT ON THE WASHINGTON VISIT
OF ADMIRAL HUGO BIERMANN, SOUTH AFRICA'S CHIEF OF
DEFENSE STAFF. MAIN THRUST OF ARTICLE IS THAT US "TOP
DEFENSE STRATEGISTS" ARE CONCERNED ABOUT EXPANDING .
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SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, PARTICULARLY

SINCE THE COUP IN LISBON. CORRESPONDENT CLAIMS THAT AMERICAN UNEASE HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED OVER FEAR OF EVENTUAL SOVIET BIDS FOR SHORE BASES ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN MAINLAND SINCE GENERAL SPINOLA'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PORTUGAL WAS READY TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO ITS "BLACK AFRICAN COLONIES." ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT WHILE STATE DEPARTMENT AFRICANISTS MAINTAIN A POLICY OF STRICT NEUTRALITY WITH REGARD TO PORTUGAL'S TROUBLES IN ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES, OFFICERS AT THE PENTAGON PRIVATELY ARGUE THAT THE STRATEGIC QUESTIONS INVOLVED NEED TO BE CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED.

2. AFTER THIS TAKE OFF, ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT THE SUBJECT WAS BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE BY ADMIRAL BIERMANN'S "PURELY PRIVATE" VISIT TO WASHINGTON. THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ACCORDING TO THE TELEGRAPH, FIRST REFUSED TO GRANT BIERMANN A VISA, BUT FINALLY GAVE IN AFTER A PERSONAL PROTEST FROM SENATOR HARRY BYRD. ALTHOUGH THE VISIT WAS PRIVATE, TELEGRAPH NOTES VARIOUS AMERICAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING ADMIRAL MOORER AND ADMIRAL MCCAIN, MET WITH BIERMANN.

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